

Position Statement on Polling Location Waiting Lines

Election reform is a priority of the National Council on Independent Living and will remain an essential objective of our organization and its members until all barriers to the full participation of people with disabilities in the voting process have been fully addressed.

According to Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, “voting ought to be as easy as getting a glass of water”.

We have reviewed the 2012 Presidential election polling place data that is being analyzed by Rutgers/Syracuse Universities and it shows that 30% of voters with disabilities reported difficulty in voting at a polling place in 2012, compared to 8% of voters without disabilities.

Lines outside/inside polling locations were frequently long and waiting time for many voters was often lengthy. Chairs shall be available at all polling locations for voters that are unable to stand for long periods of time.

Lines in the polling places with no reasonable accommodation are disenfranchisement.